

CHAPTER 5

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

INTRODUCTION

During the planning process for this Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA)/ Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), formal and informal efforts were made by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to involve other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and the public. BLM initiated the planning process in November 2004 by requesting comments to determine the scope of issues and concerns that needed to be addressed during the studies and in the document. As part of the resource inventory, members of the interdisciplinary team formally and informally contacted various relevant agencies to request data to supplement BLM's existing resource database. The sections of this chapter describe these efforts including the consultation required, how this RMPA/EIS is consistent with other finalized plans, public participation activities throughout the process, and public review of the Draft RMPA/EIS.

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Coordination with other agencies was accomplished through communications, meetings, and other cooperative efforts between the interdisciplinary team and involved Federal, State, and local agencies and organizations. Cooperating agencies for this EIS are the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF), New Mexico State Land Office, Chaves County, Eddy County and Lea County.

Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is required by the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 USC Sec. 661 et seq.) and Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 USC Sec 1531 et seq.) prior to initiation of any project by BLM that may affect any Federally-listed special status species or its designated critical habitat in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. This RMPA/EIS is considered a major planning effort, and consultation has been initiated. As part of data collection, BLM requested and the USFWS provided a list of Federally-listed species that may occur in Chaves, Eddy, Lea, and Roosevelt Counties. This letter is on file in the BLM Pecos District Office. A Biological Assessment will be completed prior to issuing the Proposed RMPA/Final EIS. The Biological Assessment and associated correspondence will be on file at the BLM Pecos District Office.

The NMDGF and the New Mexico Natural Resources Department also have been contacted in regard to State-listed threatened and endangered plant and animal species. This is consistent with legislation protecting State-listed species. Coordination and consultation with the State will continue throughout the planning process and during implementation of the RMPA.

In 2004, BLM contacted the Mescalero Apache Tribe, Apache Tribe of Oklahoma, Kiowa Tribe, and Comanche Tribe to notify them that an RMPA/EIS was being prepared for the Special Status Species Amendment. BLM provided information about the Plan for developing the cultural resource components of the RMPA/EIS, and

requested that the tribe identify any traditional cultural places and resources that should be considered, as the Plan was prepared. BLM also offered the tribes an opportunity to assist in preparation of the RMPA/EIS. These tribes and the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo were contacted again in 2005.

CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER PLANS

BLM planning regulations require that RMPs be “consistent with officially approved or adopted resource-related plans, and the policies and procedures contained therein, of other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and Indian tribes, so long as the guidance and RMPs also are consistent with the purposes, policies and programs of Federal laws and regulations applicable to public lands” (43 CFR 1610.3-2). In order to ensure such consistency, finalized plans were solicited from Federal, State, and local agencies as well as Tribal governments listed in Table 5-2.

These same agencies received copies of the Draft RMPA/EIS for review and comment. Section 202 of the FLPMA requires the BLM to coordinate land use planning activities with other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and Indian tribes. FLPMA also requires BLM to ensure that consideration is given to non-BLM plans that are pertinent to the development of the RMPA, assist in resolving inconsistencies between Federal and non-Federal government plans, and to provide for meaningful public involvement of other Federal agencies, State and local government officials, and Indian tribes in the development of the RMPA. There are no known inconsistencies between any of the alternatives and officially approved and adopted resource-related plans of other

Federal agencies, State and local governments, and Indian tribes. Coordination and consultation will continue throughout the planning process and implementation of the RMPA.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Identification of Issues

The public participation process for the RMPA/EIS has been ongoing throughout the development of the RMPA/EIS and will continue to the Record of Decision. In addition to formal public participation activities, informal contacts occur frequently with public land users, industry, and interested persons through meetings, field trips, telephone calls, or letters. All public participation applicable to the RMPA/EIS has been documented and analyzed as part of the planning process and kept on file in the Pecos District Office.

The RMPA/EIS and scoping process began on November 18, 2004, with the publication in the *Federal Register* of BLM's Notice of Intent to amend the RMP, prepare an EIS, and conduct public scoping meetings. This notice invited the general public as well as Federal, State, and local government agencies to identify issues and submit comments regarding the RMPA/EIS. In addition to the Notice of Intent, the BLM prepared a scoping notice to send to interested parties. The scoping notice included a brief letter from the Pecos District Manager. The notice provided background information, announced the preparation of the RMPA and EIS, explained the planning process, project schedule, agency responsibilities, and announced the public scoping meetings and other public participation opportunities.

The scoping notice was distributed to over 400 agencies, interested organizations, and individuals by early December 2004. The mailing list has been and will continue to be reviewed and updated throughout the RMPA/EIS process. Also, a media release introducing the project and announcing the scoping meetings was prepared and issued on November 24, 2004, by the BLM to local and regional newspapers, television, and radio. Four public scoping meetings were held in January 2005 to obtain input on issues and planning criteria, and determine the scope of the RMPA/EIS. Several displays illustrating or explaining components of the RMPA/EIS were stationed around the meeting room for those in attendance to review. Each meeting began with a presentation by BLM representatives after which comments and questions were received from the public. Table 5-1 summarizes the public meeting attendance.

In addition to the comments received during the meetings, a total of 10 comment forms and letters were submitted to BLM. Scoping ended on February 4, 2005; however, additional comments were accepted after that date. A Summary Scoping Report was issued in April 2005 that described the scoping process and summarized the public comments and issues obtained.

Public Review of the Draft RMPA/EIS

The next official opportunity for the public to participate in the planning process occurs during the agency and public review period of this Draft RMPA/EIS. The Draft RMPA/EIS has been sent to the entities listed in Table 5-2.

Concurrent with the distribution of the Draft RMPA/EIS, a BLM Notice of

Availability was published in the *Federal Register* announcing the availability of the document for public review and comment. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register* marks the beginning of the 90-day review and comment period. The RMPA/EIS is being prepared by an interdisciplinary team of environmental planning and resource specialists. Table 5-3 is a list of the team members, titles, and responsibility associated with the RMPA/EIS.

BLM will host a series of formal public open house during the 90-day review in an effort to gather public comment and answer questions regarding the Draft RMPA/EIS. The public will be notified at least 15 days before the meetings. Notification will include dates, times and locations of the formal public meetings.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM Pecos District Office, 2909 West Second Street, Roswell, New Mexico, 88201, during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the Proposed RMPA/Final EIS. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspections in their entirety.

Proposed RMPA/Final EIS

All written and oral comments received during the 90-day period will be compiled, analyzed, and summarized. A Proposed RMPA/Final EIS (RMPA/FEIS) will be prepared that addresses and provides responses to the comments received on the Draft RMPA/EIS. The RMPA/FEIS will contain additional information, as needed, to support the responses to the comments. Following the publication of a Notice of Availability in the *Federal*

Register, distribution of the RMPA/FEIS, a 60-day Governor's Consistency Review, and a 30-day protest period, the BLM will issue a Record of Decision summarizing the findings and decisions regarding the preferred alternative and its determination regarding compliance with NEPA and other regulations. Also, the RMPA will be prepared to document the resource management decisions and complete the BLM's resource management planning process for the Special Status Species RMPA.

TABLE 5-1 PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING ATTENDANCE AND COMMENTS		
Meeting Date	Meeting Location	Number in Attendance*
January 11, 2005	Student Union, Eastern New Mexico University, Portales, New Mexico	2
January 13, 2005	Roswell Field Office, Roswell, NM	15
January 18, 2005	Pecos Village Conference Center, Carlsbad, New Mexico	19
January 20, 2005	Hobbs Public Library, Hobbs, New Mexico	9
	Economic Profile System Workshops	
February 9, 2005	Roswell Convention & Civic Center, Roswell, New Mexico	8
February 10, 2005	Pecos Village Conference Center, Carlsbad, New Mexico	17
NOTE: *Members of the public, not BLM staff.		

TABLE 5-2
LIST OF DOCUMENT RECIPIENTS

FEDERAL

Department of Agriculture
 Agriculture Research Service
 Animal Damage Control
 Farm Service Agency
 Rural Development Office
 Natural Resources Conservation
 Service
 Department of Commerce
 Department of Defense
 Department of the Air Force
 Cannon AFB

Department of Energy
 Waste Isolation Pilot Plant
 Department of the Interior
 Bureau of Indian Affairs
 Bureau of Land Management
 Resource Advisory Council
 Bureau of Reclamation
 Fish and Wildlife Service
 National Park Service
 Carlsbad Caverns National Park
 Natural Resources Library
 Office of Environmental Policy and
 Compliance
 Environmental Protection Agency

NEW MEXICO STATE AGENCIES

Agriculture Department
 Agricultural Programs and Resources
 Division
 Livestock Board
 Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources
 Commerce and Industry Department
 Department of Finance and Administration
 Office of Cultural Affairs
 Museum of New Mexico
 Historic Preservation Division
 Department of Game and Fish
 Energy and Minerals Department
 Forestry and Resources Conservation
 Division
 Energy Conservation and Management
 Division
 Mining and Minerals Division
 Oil, Gas, and Minerals Division
 Park and Recreation Division
 Governor's Office
 Environment Department
 Environmental Protection Division

Waste and Water Management Division
 Surface Water Quality
 Highway and Transportation Department
 Human Services Department
 Office of Indian Affairs
 Land Office
 Commissioner's Office
 New Mexico State University
 State Engineer Office/Interstate Stream
 Commission
 Taxation and Revenue Department
 University of New Mexico

**CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND
NEW MEXICO STATE LEGISLATORS**

U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman
 U.S. Senator Pete V. Domenici
 U.S. Congressman Steve Pearce
 State Senator, District 27
 State Senator, District 32
 State Senator, District 33
 State Senator, District 34
 State Senator, District 41
 State Senator, District 42
 State Representative, District 55
 State Representative, District 57
 State Representative, District 58
 State Representative, District 61
 State Representative, District 62
 State Representative, District 66

**LOCAL AND REGIONAL
GOVERNMENTS, AGENCIES, AND
INDIAN TRIBES**

Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
 Chambers of Commerce for Artesia, Eunice,
 Hobbs, Jal, Lovington, Roosevelt
 County, Roswell, Roswell Hispano,
 Tatum
 Chaves County Commissioners
 Public Land Advisory Committee
 Cities of Artesia, Carlsbad, Eunice, Hobbs,
 Jal, Lovington, Portales, Roswell, Tatum
 Comanche Indian Tribe
 Eddy County Commissioners
 Lea County Commissioners
 Kiowa Tribe
 Mescalero Apache Tribe
 Roosevelt County Commissioners

Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Chaves, Border, Hagerman-Dexter,
Lea, Roosevelt, Carlsbad, Central
Valley, Penasco
Towns of Dexter, Hagerman
Ysleta del Sur Pueblo

OTHER GROUPS/INDIVIDUALS

Audubon – New Mexico
BLM Grazing Permittees
BLM Mineral Lease Holders
Central Valley Electric Cooperative
Chihuahuan Desert Conservation Alliance
Desert Roughriders
Forest Guardians
Independent Petroleum Association of
New Mexico
Lea County Electric Cooperative
New Mexico Cattle Growers Association
New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau
New Mexico Natural History Institute
New Mexico Off Highway Vehicle Alliance
New Mexico Oil and Gas Association
New Mexico Public Lands Council
New Mexico Wilderness Alliance
Quail Unlimited
Quivira Coalition
Roosevelt County Electric Cooperative
Sierra Club – New Mexico
Southwest Center for Biological Diversity
T&E, Inc.
The Nature Conservancy
Western Land Exchange Project
Wildlife Management Institute

TABLE 5-3 LIST OF PREPARERS AND REVIEWERS			
NAME	RMPA ROLE/ RESPONSIBILITY	EDUCATION	EXPERIENCE
PECOS DISTRICT/ROSWELL FIELD OFFICE			
Howard Parman	Team Leader, Planning Coordinator	BS Forestry, Oklahoma State University	28 years with BLM in Forestry, Public Affairs & Planning
Janet Graham	Geographic Information System	BS Physical Education, Eastern New Mexico Univ.	23 years with BLM in GIS
Pat Flanary	Cultural Resources	BA Anthropology, Southern Methodist University	16 years with BLM in Archeology
Rand French	Wildlife/Threatened & Endangered Species	BS Wildlife Management, Eastern New Mexico Univ.	16 years with BLM in Wildlife & Range
Jerry Dutchover	Solid Minerals	BS Geology, New Mexico State University	23 years with BLM in Fluid & Solid Minerals
Al Collar	Fluid Minerals/Salable Minerals	BS Geology Arkansas Tech University	24 years with BLM in Fluid Minerals, Solid Minerals, HazMat, Safety and IT. 2 years with DOD in HazMat.
Bill Murry	Recreation/Visual Resources	2 years Colorado Northwestern Community College	15 years with BLM, Park Manager & Outdoor Recreation Planner
Michael McGee	Soil, Water, Air	BS Geology, New Mexico State University	12 years with BLM in Fluid Minerals, Solid Minerals, and Soil/Water/Air
Irene Gonzales	Lands/Access	BLM Lands School (Realty)	BLM- 29 years, 26 years in Lands program
Doug Burger	Pecos District Manager	BS Wildlife & Range Texas Tech	26 years with BLM, 17 yrs in Management
PECOS DISTRICT/CARLSBAD FIELD OFFICE			
Steve Daly	Range Management Vegetation Noxious Weeds	BS Wildlife Science New Mexico State University	BLM - 23 years in Range & Soil/Water/Air
Steve Bird	Wildlife/ Threatened & Endangered Species	BS Wildlife Science New Mexico State University	4 years with BLM
Ty Allen	Wildlife/ Threatened & Endangered Species	BS Biology Texas Christian University MS Biology Sul Ross State University	2 years with BLM
LAS CRUCES DISTRICT OFFICE			
Rena Gutierrez	Writer/Editor (Zone)	B.A., Journalism & Mass Communications, New Mexico State University	BLM – 28 years